



2/13/2025

PFAS Education Community Workshop

Carlos Quintero, General Manager
Justin Brazil, Director of Water Quality

Community Workshop Ground Rules

- Public discussion, not a debate
- Everyone should have an opportunity to speak
- Listen to and respect other points of view



Today's Agenda

- Purpose of meeting
- About Sweetwater Authority
- What are PFAS?
- EPA regulations
- PFAS testing results
- Potential solutions
- Public comment/Q&A
- Next steps/community workshops



About Sweetwater Authority

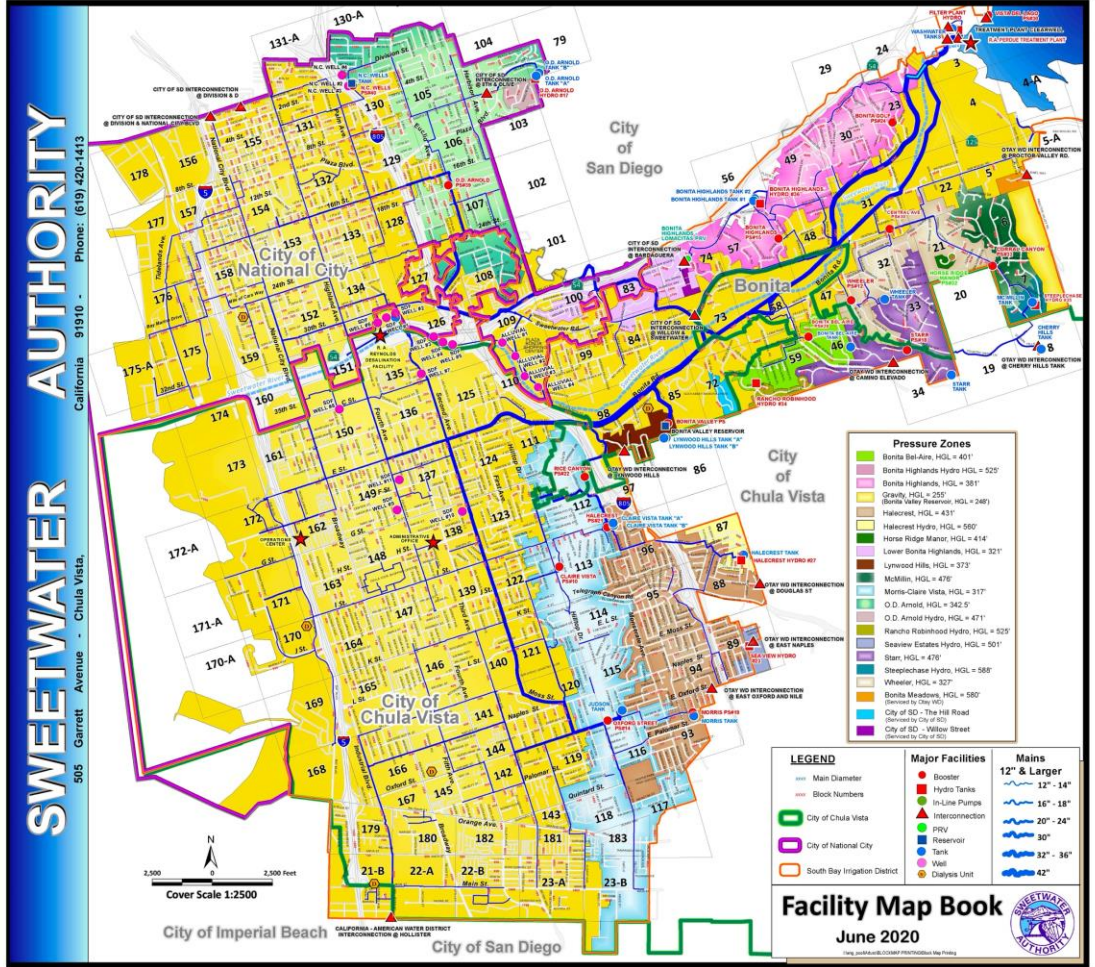
- Provide water service to 200,000 people in a 36-mile service area
 - National City
 - Bonita
 - Western and central portions of Chula Vista



SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

California 91910 · Phone: (619) 420-1413
505 Garrett Avenue · Chula Vista, California

2,500 0 2,500 Feet
Cover Scale 1:2500

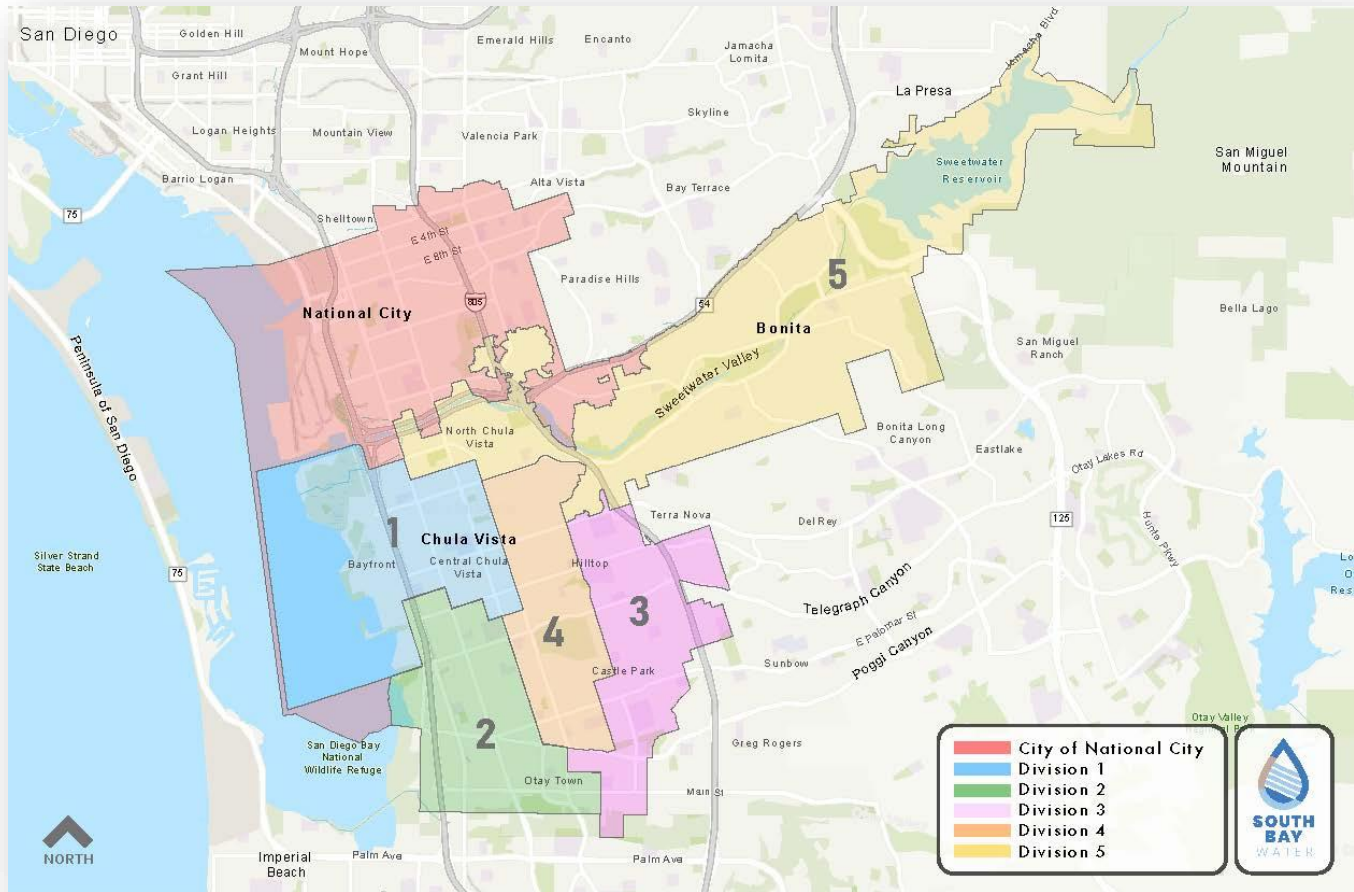


Pressure Zones	
[Light Green]	Bonita Bel-Aire, HGL = 401'
[Light Yellow]	Bonita Highlands Hydro, HGL = 525'
[Light Orange]	Bonita Highlands, HGL = 381'
[Light Purple]	Grady, HGL = 295' (Bonita Valley Reservoir, HGL = 248')
[Light Blue]	Halsted, HGL = 431'
[Light Cyan]	Halsted Hydro, HGL = 560'
[Light Magenta]	Horse Ridge Manor, HGL = 414'
[Light Brown]	Lower Bonita Highlands, HGL = 321'
[Light Red]	Lynwood Hills, HGL = 373'
[Light Green]	McMillin, HGL = 476'
[Light Yellow]	Monte-Claire Vista, HGL = 311'
[Light Orange]	O. D. Arnold, HGL = 342.5'
[Light Purple]	O. D. Arnold, HGL = 471'
[Light Blue]	Rancho Robinson Hydro, HGL = 525'
[Light Cyan]	Seaview Estates Hydro, HGL = 501'
[Light Magenta]	Star, HGL = 476'
[Light Brown]	Sturges-Crawford Hydro, HGL = 568'
[Light Red]	Wheeler, HGL = 327'
[Light Green]	Bonita Meadows, HGL = 580' (owned by the City)
[Light Yellow]	City of SD - The Hill Road (owned by City of SD)
[Light Orange]	City of SD - Willow Street (owned by City of SD)

LEGEND	Major Facilities	Mains 12" & Larger
Main Diameter	Booster	12" - 14"
Block Numbers	Hydro Tanks	16" - 18"
City of Chula Vista	In-Line Pumps	20" - 24"
City of National City	Interconnection	30"
South Bay Irrigation District	PTV	32" - 36"
	Reservoir	42"
	Tank	
	Well	
	Dialysis Unit	

Facility Map Book
June 2020





- City of National City
- Division 1
- Division 2
- Division 3
- Division 4
- Division 5



Sweetwater Authority Water Sources

- Water delivered through 400 miles of pipeline from four main sources:
 - Groundwater wells in National City
 - Storage of local runoff/surface water at Loveland Reservoir (Alpine) and Sweetwater Reservoir (Spring Valley)
 - San Diego Formation Wells in the lower Sweetwater River basin
 - Purchase of imported water from San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District



Video Link



PFAS Explained



What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manmade chemicals found in common household items.



Causes of PFAS

PFAS can leak into water sources through the following:

- Industry
- Firefighting foam
- Waterproof clothing
- Food boxes/wrapping
- Non-stick pans
- Cleaning products
- Personal care products



Environment/water supply

PFAS are slow to break down and can move far from their original use areas.

When the products with PFAS are manufactured, used and then discarded, they enter the environment and can end up in water sources over time.

Sweetwater closely monitors and tests the water delivered to our customers; performing more than 15,000 measurements per year.

Where are PFAS Found?



Drinking Water

Drinking water contaminated by other sources of PFAS.



Waste Sites

Soil and water at or near landfills, disposable sites and hazardous waste sites.



Fire Extinguishing Foam

Used in training and emergency response events at airports and firefighting training facilities.



Facilities

Chrome plating, electronics and certain textile and paper manufacturers that produce or use PFAS.



Consumer products

Stain, water repellent or non-stick products, paints, sealants and some personal care products such as makeup.



Food Packaging

Grease resistant paper, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes and candy wrappers.



Biosolids

Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water.

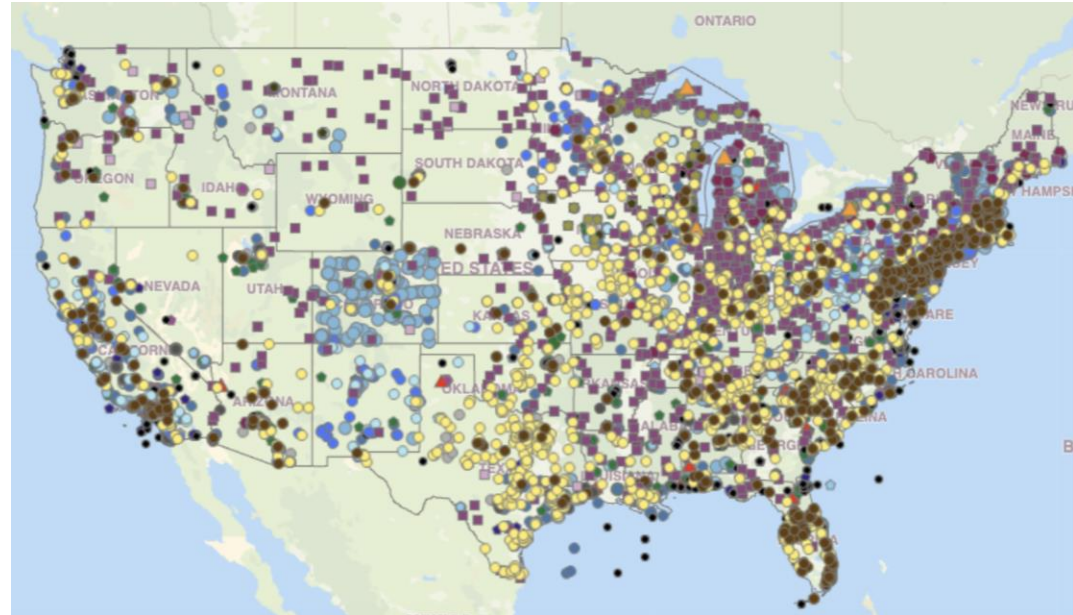
EPA PFAS Mapping

Data Available from Water Quality Portal:

	Above Median	Below Median	Non-Detect
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tissue			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sediment			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other			

Drinking Water - UCMR and State Data:

- UCMR PWSs with:
 - Result(s) Above Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
 - Result(s) At or Above UCMR MRL
 - No Results At or Above UCMR MRL



Source: EPA PFAS Analytics

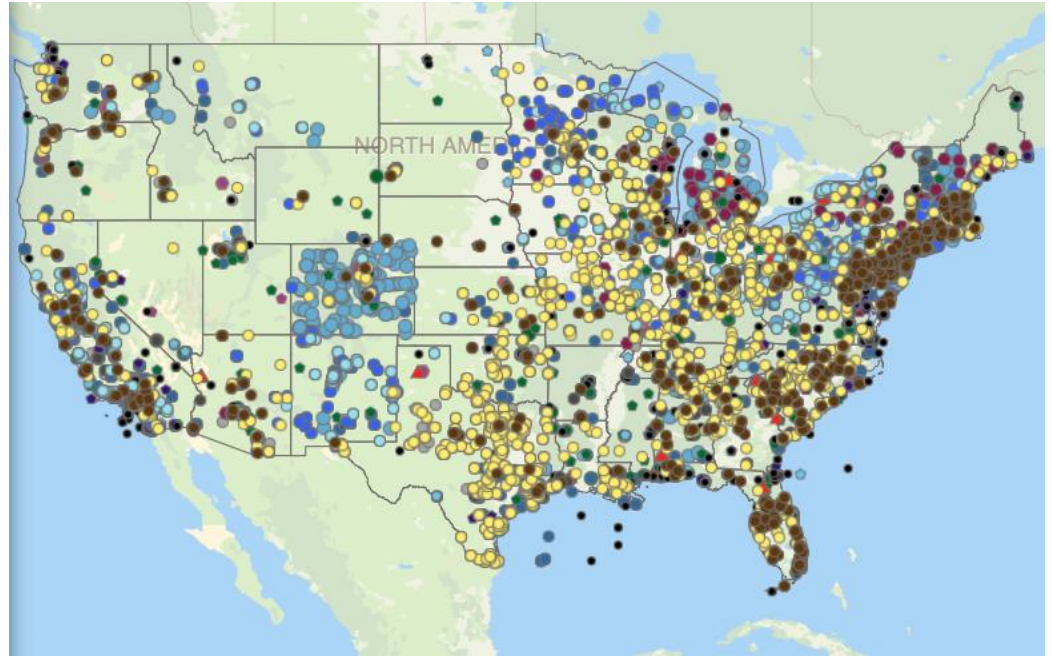
EPA PFAS Mapping – Water only

Data Available from Water Quality Portal:

	Above Median	Below Median	Non-Detect
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water	●	●	○
<input type="checkbox"/> Tissue	■	■	□
<input type="checkbox"/> Air	▲	▲	△
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil	◆	◆	◇
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment	●	●	○
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	■	■	□

Drinking Water - UCMR and State Data:

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Source: EPA PFAS Analytics



Cost of PFAS Remediation

PFAS Remediation Costs by Market



Sweetwater is actively considering all available options for remediation, ensuring the best possible strategy to balance, safety, cost and efficiency.

Source: AECOM/Bank of America

Regulations and Testing – California

- **State of California** and **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** are taking significant steps to address PFAS
- **California** has one of the most **comprehensive PFAS testing and monitoring programs** in country
- Sweetwater has received monitoring orders from the State's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and reports under this program



Regulations and Testing – Federal

- Enforceable EPA regulations of six PFAS with the lowest level set at **4 PPT (parts per trillion)** taking effect in **2029**.
- In April 2024, EPA required public water systems to perform one year of initial quarterly monitoring by 2027, in order to meet new standards by April 2029.
- Sweetwater completed second round of initial monitoring in January 2025, while conducting required monitoring per Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR-5).



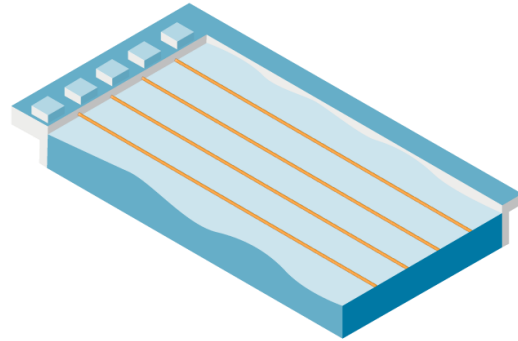
EPA PFAS Metrics Explained

4 Parts Per Trillion
of PFAS

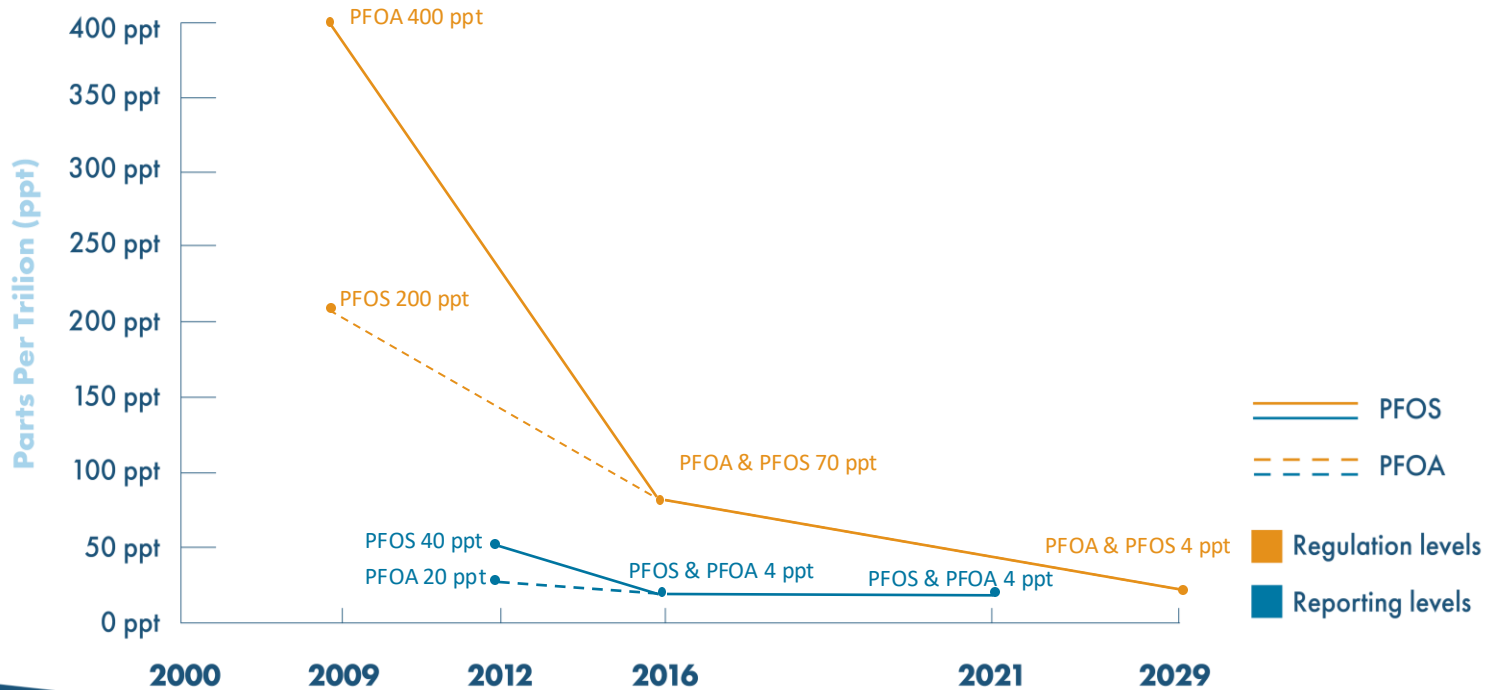


=

1 drop of water  **in**
5 Olympic sized swimming pools



PFAS Regulation & Detection Levels



CA Response and Notification Levels



CA Response Level — *The state has set a “response level” for PFAS in drinking water. If PFAS levels reach “response level”, the water agency is required to either:*

- Notify the public of the Response Level Exceedance
- Utilize treatment or blending
- Take the water source offline



CA Notification Level — *The state has set a “notification level” for PFAS in drinking water. Wholesale water providers are required to:*

- Notify local government agencies within the service area

Testing Results Received – January 2025

Perdue Water Treatment Plant-Clearwell Effluent - Treating 100% Sweetwater Reservoir								
PFAS Compound	Sample Date (Q1)	Concentration (ng/L)	Sample Date (Q2)	Concentration (ng/L)	Sample Date (Q2, Confirmation)	Concentration (ng/L)	CA Notification Level (ng/L)	CA Response Level (ng/L)
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	10/23/24	6.7	1/14/25	9.4	2/5/25	6.6	3	20
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	10/23/24	9.4	1/14/25	11.4	2/5/25	9.6	5.1	10
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	10/23/24	10.7	1/14/25	11.0	2/5/25	11.1	500	5000
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	10/23/24	4.6	1/14/25	4.7	2/5/25	4.7		
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	10/23/24	7.7	1/14/25	8.6	2/5/25	9.2		
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	10/23/24	5.7	1/14/25	4.8	2/5/25	ND (< 4 ng/L)	6.5	40
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	10/23/24	10.5	1/14/25	12.3	2/5/25	12.6		
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	10/23/24	7.3	1/14/25	7.6	2/5/25	7.7		
Hazard index	Calculation	0.68	Calculation	0.95	Calculation	0.67		

Hazard Index (HI) Calculation: HI is determined by a sum of fractions.

Compares four compounds against the highest level below which there is no risk to health effects.

HI (Q1) = HFPO (0 ppt/10 ppt) + PFBS (10.7 ppt/2000 ppt) + PFNA (0 ppt/10 ppt) + PFHxS (6.7 ppt/ 10 ppt) = 0.68

HI (Q2) = HFPO (0 ppt/10 ppt) + PFBS (11.0 ppt/2000 ppt) + PFNA (0 ppt/10 ppt) + PFHxS (9.4 ppt/ 10 ppt) = 0.95

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

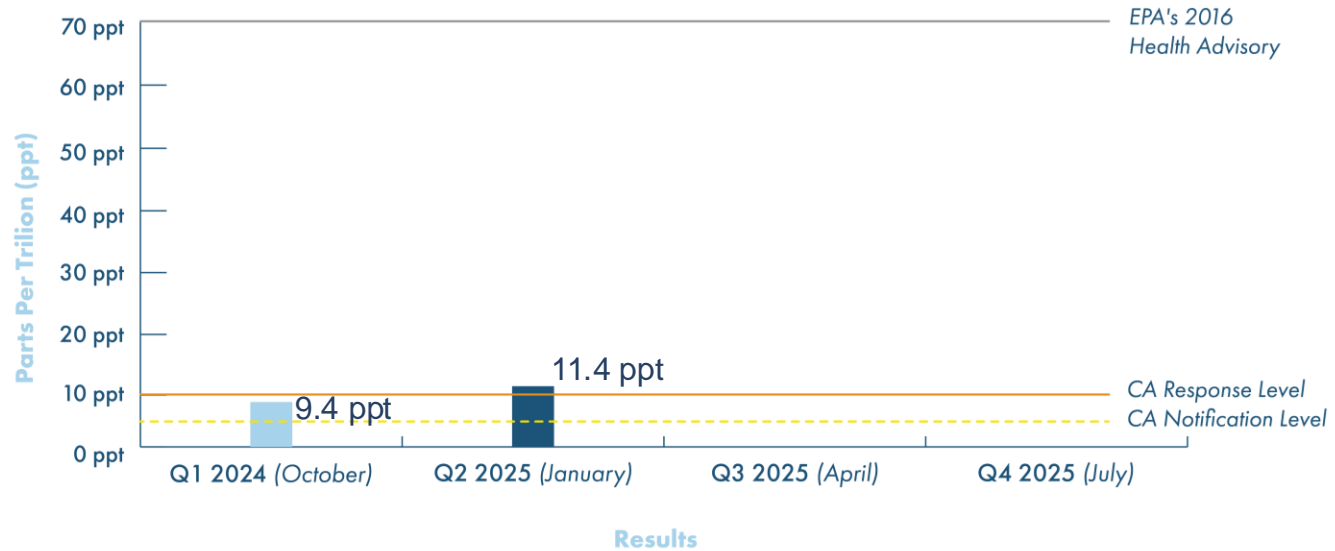
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal



Testing Results — Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)

PFAS Testing Results

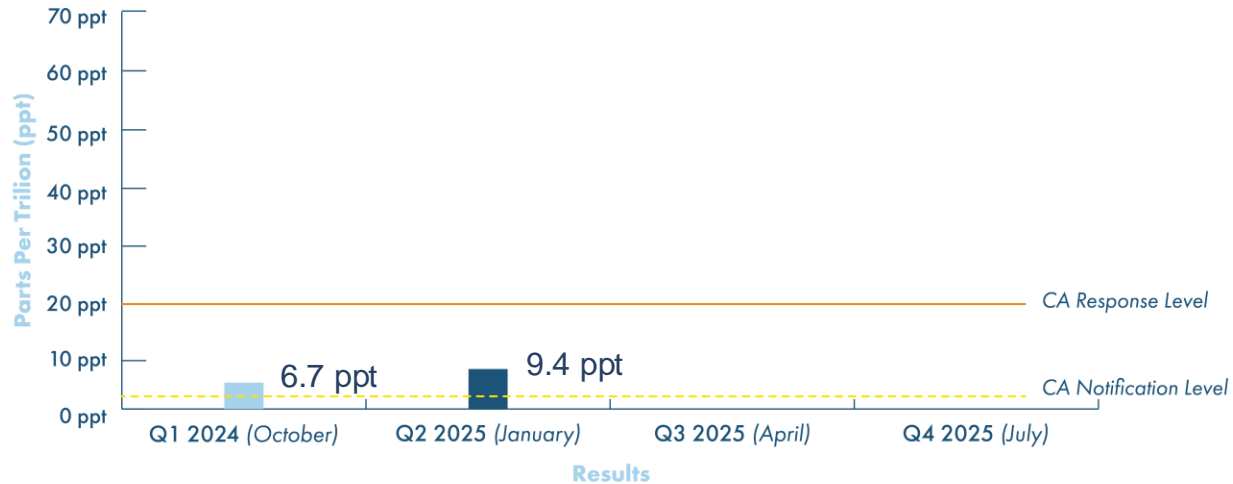
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)



Testing Results — Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)

PFAS Testing Results

Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)



We are Taking Action



We are:



Seeking a confirmation test to verify initial Q2 2025 results and working with the regulatory agencies on results.



Continuing testing and monitoring for PFAS and keeping the community informed of the results.

We will be:



Considering building a purification facility that will use the best available technology to remove PFAS from our water supply and properly dispose of it.



Pursuing all possible cost saving measures to help offset the cost of needed infrastructure.

What Can You Do



Water safety

We understand your concerns about water safety and your own personal water use.



PFAS risk

PFAS are widespread in our environment, making it hard to completely avoid them.



Water filters

EPA's recommendations for purchasing water filters:

- Choose filters that remove PFAS through reverse osmosis or activated carbon filters.
- Check labels for NSF/ANSI Standard 53 and 58 certifications
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for ongoing maintenance.

**Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

What Can You Do?

To learn more, please visit www.epa.gov/pfas

[EPA's Steps to Reduce PFAS Risk.](#)

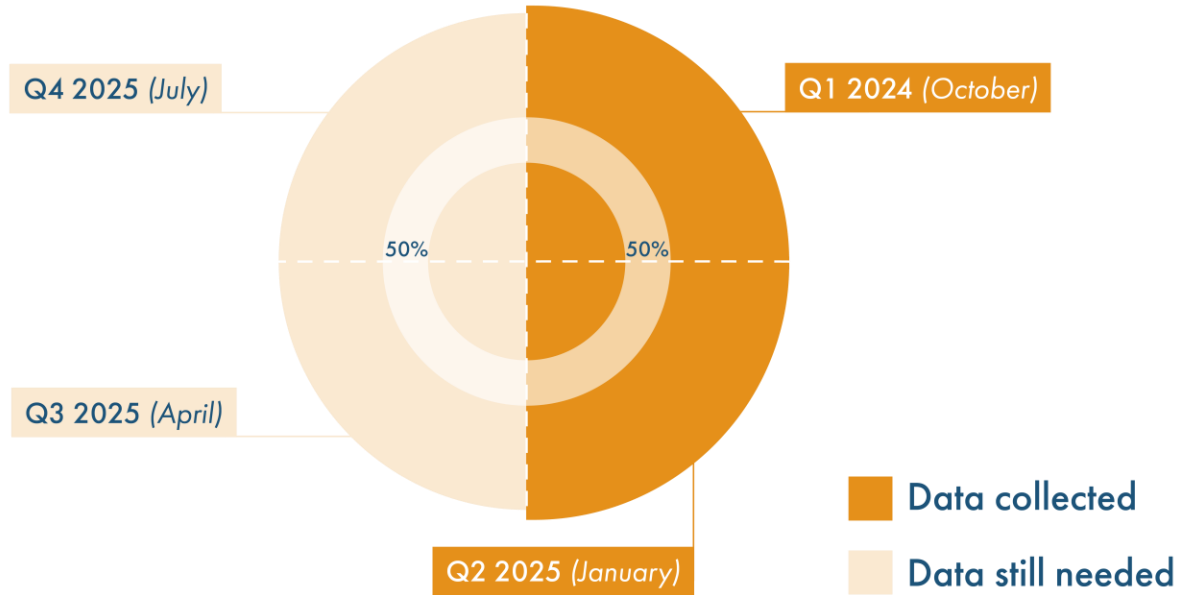


[EPA's Water Filter Fact Sheet](#)

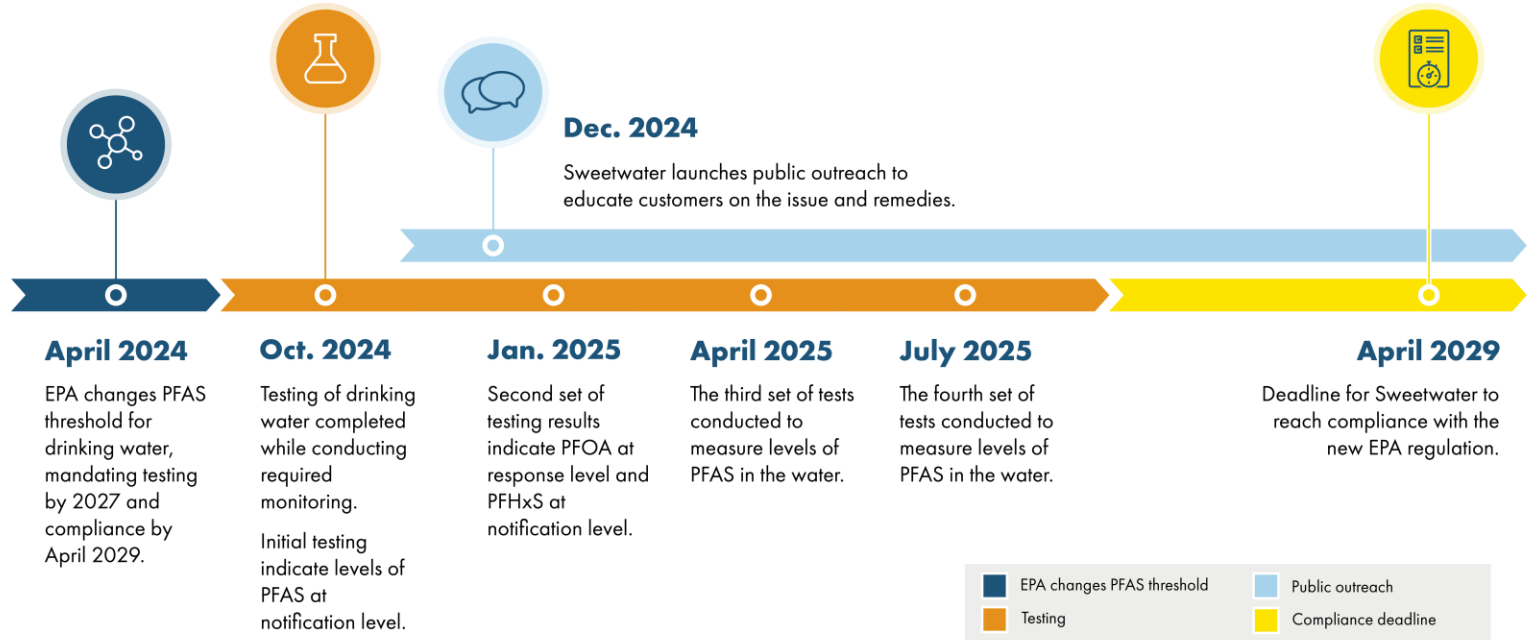


*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk>
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf>

PFAS Testing Progress



Sweetwater Authority PFAS Timeline

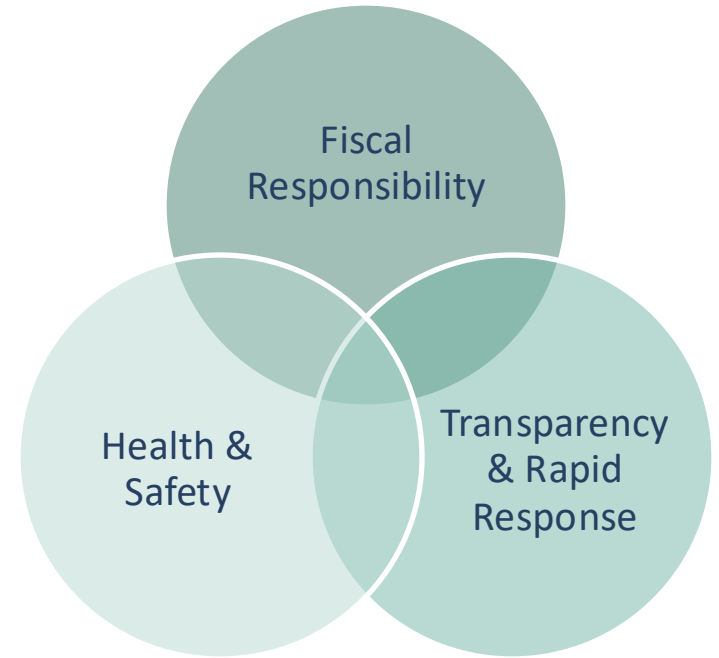


**Updated February 2025*



Potential Solutions for the Future

- This is a critical moment for us to plan for new EPA regulations
- Important to plan now because of **significant costs associated with treating PFAS**
- Advanced filtration systems require major investments in infrastructure and ongoing operational costs
- Switching to imported water adds significant cost



PFAS Public Outreach Efforts

- Committed to engaging community and stakeholders throughout the process
- Hosting four workshops to engage customers and community

Meeting Type/Format	Location	Date/Time	
Community Advisory Working Group	Chula Vista	January 28, 5 p.m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Workshop #1	National City	Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Workshop #2	Chula Vista	February 13, 5:30 p.m.	
Community Workshop #3	Bonita	February 19, 5:45 p.m.	



How you can get involved



Visit
[www.sweetwater.org/
PFAS](http://www.sweetwater.org/PFAS)



Sign up for our
email list



Call us at
(619) 409-6786



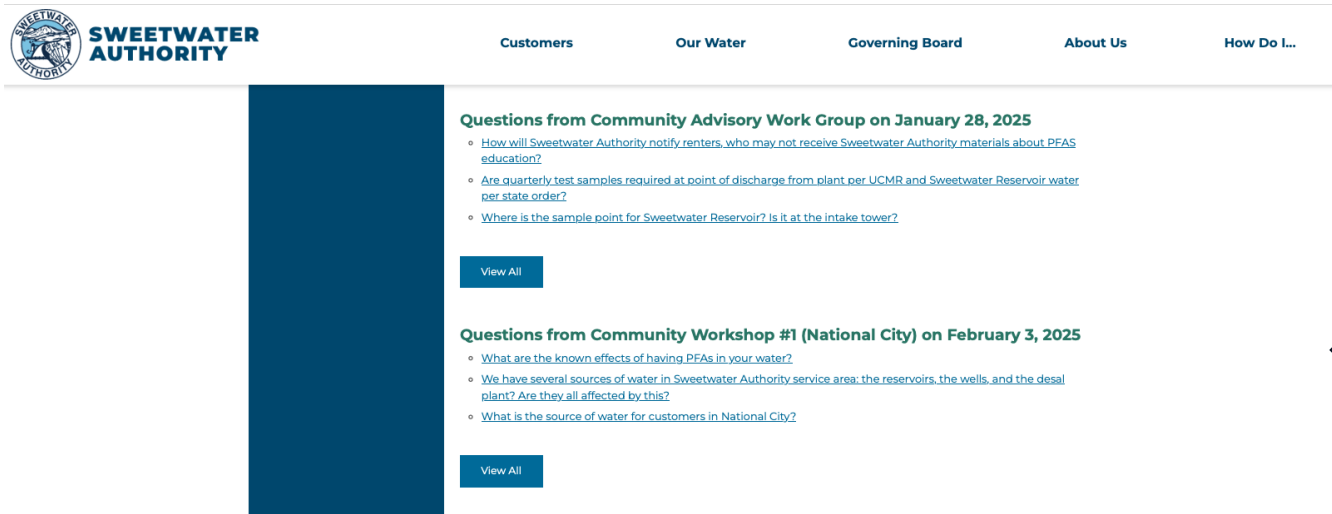
Email
[PFAS@sweetwater.
org](mailto:PFAS@sweetwater.org)



Attend a meeting

PFAS Education Page Resources

- Workshop materials and video of presentation
- Questions from all workshops



The screenshot shows the Sweetwater Authority website's navigation menu and content area. The navigation menu includes links for Customers, Our Water, Governing Board, About Us, and How Do I... The content area features two sections of questions from community workshops, each with a 'View All' button. Two large blue arrows point to the right from the right side of the page, highlighting the question sections.

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

Customers Our Water Governing Board About Us How Do I...

Questions from Community Advisory Work Group on January 28, 2025

- [How will Sweetwater Authority notify renters, who may not receive Sweetwater Authority materials about PFAS education?](#)
- [Are quarterly test samples required at point of discharge from plant per UCMR and Sweetwater Reservoir water per state order?](#)
- [Where is the sample point for Sweetwater Reservoir? Is it at the intake tower?](#)

[View All](#)

Questions from Community Workshop #1 (National City) on February 3, 2025

- [What are the known effects of having PFAs in your water?](#)
- [We have several sources of water in Sweetwater Authority service area: the reservoirs, the wells, and the desal plant? Are they all affected by this?](#)
- [What is the source of water for customers in National City?](#)

[View All](#)



www.sweetwater.org/PFAS

Q&A

